

REMARKS

The Non-Final Office Action of February 27, 2003 has been fully considered. In view of the above amendments and the following comments, allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants submit the above amendments do not raise new matter, as support for the amendments may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Specifically, support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in original claim 7. The amendment to claim 10 corrects an inadvertent typing error. The amendment to the specification has been made to properly identify the LEXAN® trademark as required by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vriens et al. Additionally, the Examiner has objected to claims 7-15, 18, and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The subject matter of claim 7 has been incorporated into claim 1 by the above amendments. Independent claim 1 thus includes subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. The 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 is overcome by this amendment. Claims 5-6 and 8-17 are therefore dependent from an allowable claim, overcoming the §102(b) rejections of those claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6, 16 and 17, and the objections to claims 8-15.

Applicants additionally assert that the objections to claims 18 and 19 are improper and respectfully request removal of the objections. The Examiner has stated that claims 18 and 19 contain allowable subject matter but are dependent from a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully note that claims 18 and 19 were filed as independent claims, not dependent claims. As such, Applicants submit the objections should be removed and the claims allowed.

In view of the above, Applicants submit the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the rejections and objections be withdrawn.

If any fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this response,
Applicants authorize deduction of that fee from Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

Respectfully submitted,

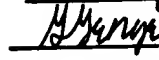
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on MAY 27, 2003


(SIGNATURE)
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